

values and his beloved Louisiana. Taking office in 2005, he almost immediately was faced with one of the greatest crises any senator in my tenure has had to confront: Hurricane Katrina. As his State has faced Katrina's devastation and other natural disasters, Louisianans could always count on DAVID to deliver for them, no matter what. Throughout, DAVID mastered the skill of fighting as hard as anyone when the situation called for it—as he did as the top Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee, pushing back against the overreach of the EPA—and then turning right around and making partners of those who were his most entrenched opponents—as he did by working with liberal Democrats to update the Nation's water infrastructure and pass a once-in-a-generation reform of the Nation's toxic chemical laws.

DAVID's work in the Senate has produced an impressive legacy for him and for Louisiana. As he embarks on his next chapter, I send my best wishes to him, his accomplished and lovely wife, Wendy, and his four children.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KIRK

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the junior Senator from Illinois, my good friend MARK KIRK. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing gratitude of his service on behalf of our Nation. When he leaves us in January, we will miss him dearly.

Senator KIRK was born in Champaign, IL, in 1959 and attended Cornell University, where he graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history. He would later earn a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. His academic background in law and history prepared him for a life in public service.

Senator KIRK first came to Capitol Hill as a staffer, working for Congressman John Porter of Illinois. He quickly rose through the staff ranks to become Congressman Porter's chief of staff before leaving to take a post at the World Bank and, later, at the State Department.

While still working on Capitol Hill, MARK also pursued military service, joining the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1989 as an intelligence officer. He was an active member of the Navy Reserve for the next 24 years, retiring from the military with the rank of commander. As a Navy officer, MARK's duties took him to conflict zones across the world—from the forests of former Yugoslavia to the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. For more than a decade, MARK continued military service while simultaneously working as a Congressman in the House of Representatives.

While in the House of Representatives, MARK distinguished himself as a prudent member of the Appropriations Committee and an expert on foreign

policy issues. In 2010, he was elected to the Senate and quickly set to work the following year championing infrastructure reform that was critical to his home State of Illinois. In 2012, MARK faced perhaps his most significant challenge yet when he unexpectedly suffered a stroke that nearly took his life and left the left side of his body severely impaired. Rather than be defeated, MARK channeled all of his energies in working towards recovery, spending countless hours working with physical therapists to regain his ability to walk.

What motivated MARK most during this difficult period was the desire to continue serving the people of Illinois. Thanks to MARK's unrelenting efforts and the heartfelt prayers of family and friends—including all of his colleagues in the Senate—MARK miraculously recovered and was able to return to his work in the Senate, where he has served out the remainder of his term with the utmost honor and distinction. Senator KIRK offers all of us an unparalleled example of courage amid hardship and grace amid suffering.

Through his decades of dedicated service to our Nation, both here in Congress and in the military, Senator KIRK represents the very best this Nation has to offer. His integrity, determination, and fortitude in the face of adversity embody the very pinnacle of American virtue. Today I would like to thank him for his courage, his commitment, and his sacrifice. I wish MARK and his family all the best, and I hope that he will continue his service to our Nation in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DAN COATS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my friend DAN Coats. DAN has twice served the people of Indiana as Senator, first in the late 1980s and 1990s, and again for the past 6 years. DAN is a man of integrity and a leader in the fight against government waste. He will be missed.

Senator COATS was born in Jackson, MI, in 1943 and attended Wheaton College in Illinois and Indiana University School of Law. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968, during which time he deepened his lifelong love of our country.

DAN began his career in politics in 1976 when he went to work for future Vice President Dan Quayle, who at the time was serving in the House as a Representative from Indiana. When Representative Quayle decided to run for the Senate in 1980, DAN ran for and won Quayle's House seat.

DAN served four terms in the House before being appointed to the Senate in 1989 to fill the remainder of Senator Quayle's term after Quayle was elected Vice President. DAN served in the Senate until 1999. He was a leader in tax and entitlement reform and provided unwavering support to our Armed Forces.

After Senator COATS retired from the Senate, President George W. Bush ap-

pointed him Ambassador to Germany, where he developed a close working relationship with future Chancellor Angela Merkel and oversaw construction of a new embassy near the Brandenburg Gate.

But DAN soon felt the pull of the Senate again and decided to return to this body in 2010, winning election to his old seat. Over the past 6 years, Senator COATS has again been a leader in tax and entitlement reform and has become well known for his "Waste of the Week" speeches, in which he comes to the floor to highlight particularly egregious examples of government waste and abuse.

Senator COATS has served the people of Indiana well. He has served our country well. He has led the fight against wasteful spending and helped keep our government accountable. I wish him, his wife, Marsha, and their family the very best.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, in the U.S. Senate, seniority is the typical route to influence. As Senators serve longer, they typically acquire more powerful positions, more knowledge of how to work the levers of power, and more sway over their colleagues. Over the course of my time in the Senate, I have had the privilege to serve with 352 other Senators. While in my experience the longest serving ones on average do indeed tend to make the greatest impact, I have always been most impressed by the rare colleague that leaves an indelible mark after only a relatively short time in this body. KELLY AYOTTE is such a standout.

KELLY came to this body well prepared to make a difference. As New Hampshire's first—and, so far, only—female attorney general, she left her mark across a wide swath of law and policy, from prosecuting the infamous Dartmouth College murderers to successfully defending New Hampshire's parental consent law before the U.S. Supreme Court.

As soon as she arrived here in 2011, the Senator from New Hampshire began to make her mark. Within a short period of time, publications like the New York Times and Politico began consistently referring to her as a rising star, and in 2012, her name perennially surfaced as a contender for the Republican Vice Presidential nomination.

How did KELLY gain such recognition so quickly? The answer is simple: through good old-fashioned hard work. From her first day in the Senate, she hit the ground running. The wife of an Air Force combat veteran, she joined the Armed Services Committee and poured her heart and soul into its work. It took little time for her to become one of the most powerful voices on the committee. On issues as wide ranging as protecting our servicemembers from sexual assault to keeping